

PROCLAMATION 4217

Mother's Day, 1973

*By the President of the United States of America*May 11, 1973

A Proclamation

For nearly 60 years, this Nation has set aside one day each year to recognize the enormous responsibility a mother bears for the development of her children and our future citizens. Mother's Day also provides a special opportunity for a grateful Nation to pay tribute to other contributions that the mothers of America are making to our national life.

Today we are in the midst of a national movement to ensure equal rights for women. This movement has helped bring millions of additional women into the work force, performing highly skilled and challenging jobs—many of them previously filled by men. Great numbers of these women are mothers who are pursuing careers even while they continue to carry out major family responsibilities.

American women have made wide-ranging contributions to our country throughout its history. Pioneer women helped push westward the American frontier. Women have filled countless industrial positions in wartime when men have entered the Armed Forces. In medicine, science, law, education and every other profession, women have helped this country achieve unparalleled successes.

It is appropriate on this Mother's Day that we honor mothers of every generation:

- Older mothers, many of whom are widowed and living alone.
- Mothers in their middle years who began careers after their children were grown.
- Younger mothers who devote full time to their family responsibilities.
- Mothers who, in addition to their vital role at home, are engaged in volunteer service or employment that is of inestimable value to our economy and the quality of American life.

And particularly, this year, we honor the mothers and wives of those who served in the Vietnam war, especially those whose loved ones lost their lives or were held as prisoners of war.

36 USC 142.

The Congress, by a joint resolution of May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), designated the second Sunday of May each year as a day on which to honor all mothers for their countless contributions to their families, their communities, and the Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD NIXON, President of the United States of America do hereby request that Sunday, May 13, 1973, be observed as Mother's Day. I urge Government officials and all citizens to mark that day by displaying the flag of the United States and by participating in appropriate observances.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred ninety-seventh.



PROCLAMATION 4218

Prayer for Peace Memorial Day, May 28, 1973

May 25, 1973*By the President of the United States of America*

A Proclamation

This day of memorial to those who have given their lives to preserve America's freedom over the centuries has special meaning for us in 1973. The longest and most difficult war in our history is over. The brave men who served so well in that conflict are home again; our valiant prisoners are free at last and reunited with their loved ones—all made possible by the firm resolve of the American people. Thus our prayers for peace this day are also prayers of thanksgiving.

Through our history we have seen despotisms and ideologies come and declare themselves the wave of the future, crushing freedom under foot—but each has passed, and freedom, sure as spring, has pushed up through the ruins again to reaffirm the essential dignity of man.

Americans have been on the side of that dignity in every war we have fought. Today, freedom survives in South Vietnam, and generations hence, the literature of liberty will tell that America demonstrated fully and finally its great commitment to its founding principles by fighting on behalf of just eighteen million people half a world away—and by achieving at last what we fought for.